



## MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

**Description of proposal:** Morice VDT & VRH Timber Sale, App. No. 81729, and Forest Practice Application No. 2810504. Even-aged harvest of 364 MBF of timber from 28.9 acres and uneven-aged harvest of 570 MBF of timber from 67.4 acres for a total harvest of 934 MBF from 96.3 (96) acres. Proposal includes 2,917 feet of road construction.

**Description of mitigation:** See attached sheet.

**Proponent:** Department of Natural Resources.

**Location of proposal, including street address, if any:** Sections 26, 27, 34, and 35 of Township 36 North, Range 06 East, W.M.; and Section 2 of Township 35 North, Range 06 East, W.M. Proposal is located 14 miles east of Sedro-Woolley, in Skagit County, off of Highway 20, Cabin Creek Road, Scott Paper Road, and SK-ML, SK-28, MJ-ML, and MJ-18 forest roads.

**Lead agency:** Department of Natural Resources.

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

☐ There is no comment period for this Mitigated DNS.

☒ This MDNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from March 5, 2009. Comments must be submitted by March 19, 2009.

**Responsible official:** William J. Wallace

**Position/title:** Northwest Region Manager **Phone:** 360-856-3500

**Address:** 919 North Township Street, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** William Wallace

**There is no agency SEPA appeal.**

11/09/00

## MITIGATED MEASURES

### **Morice Timber Sale, App. No. 81729**

#### Streams:

8 type 4 streams with a 100-foot riparian management buffer, which includes a minimum 25-foot, no-harvest core zone.

#### Wetlands:

- 1 forested wetland (greater than 1.0 acre in size), with a 156-foot buffer that will be thinned.
- 1 forested wetland (greater than 0.25 acre but less than 1.0 acre in size), with a 100-foot buffer that will be thinned.

#### Slope Stability:

Potentially unstable areas (incised stream channels and inner gorges) were bounded out of this proposal, including some within stream buffers.

#### Roads:

Exposed soils on cut and fill slopes will be revegetated to lessen sediment impact to streams.

#### Green tree retention and wildlife:

The DNR's Riparian Forest Restoration Strategy (2006) will be implemented on this proposal. The proposal area prescription will be applied in the outer 75 feet of the 100-foot six type 4 stream buffers. Five trees per acre of thinned RMZ will be designated for riparian habitat enhancement. Trees shall be felled toward the stream channel for riparian restoration and shall be distributed proportionally across streams.

#### Within Variable Retention Harvest Portions:

Clumped leave trees are located throughout the variable retention harvest portions of the proposal with few scattered green trees of larger diameter Douglas-fir. An average of 8 trees per acre will be retained in variable retention harvest areas.

#### Within Variable Density Thinning Portions:

All conifer species other than Douglas-fir will not be harvested except when necessary in order to facilitate yarding operations. Hardwoods within RMZ and WMZ thinning areas have been individually marked for retention. This is intended to increase species diversity in these riparian and wetland forests. In addition, some Douglas-fir trees with desirable defects have been marked in the RMZ and WMZ thinning areas in order to maintain habitat diversity in the short-term.

#### Logging methods:

Proposal will be yarded by cable and ground-based systems. Leading end of logs will be suspended during yarding.